

### THE ANNUAL MEETING AT OAKLAND.

The Forty-third annual meeting of the State Society, held at Oakland April 15, 16 and 17, was a great success. It is not possible to print all the reports, minutes, etc., in this issue of the JOURNAL and so they will all be held back and the whole story will be printed in the June number. The registration was the largest in the history of the Society—618. On Monday evening there was a dinner of secretaries of county societies and a general discussion of county society work that was distinctly profitable. The Council has authorized the calling of such a meeting next year and recommends that it be a permanent feature of the annual meetings. Santa Barbara was chosen as the place for the next meeting, and a large attendance will probably be there to enjoy the sessions. The officers elected for the year are as follows: President, F. C. E. Mattison, Pasadena; First Vice-President, Barton J. Powell, Stockton; Second Vice-President, George Tucker, Riverside; Secretary, Philip Mills Jones, San Francisco; Councilors, George H. Kress, C. G. Kenyon, J. H. Parkinson, O. D. Hamlin; Program Committee, A. B. Grosse; Public Policy and Legislation, F. F. Gundrum and T. C. Edwards; Committee on Arrangements, Rexwald Brown, Benj. Bakewell and G. Van T. Hamilton; Committee on Public Health, C. C. Browning, Jno. C. King, W. F. Snow, G. F. Broderick and N. K. Foster; Delegates to the A. M. A., for two years, George Hare and V. G. Vecki; Alternates, Clarence Moore, Lem Adams and Emmet Rixford. The scientific sessions were remarkably well attended and the discussions were good. On the whole, it was certainly a most successful meeting and the physicians of Alameda County did themselves proud as hosts and entertainers; they certainly earned the thanks of the Society.

### A MOST VALUABLE BOOK.

Beginning, some seven years ago, as a very small pamphlet, the annual edition of "New and Non-official Remedies" has grown till the edition for 1913 has indeed reached a most respectable size. It is a book that should be on the desk of every physician who ever writes a prescription. It is difficult enough, even with all the tremendously valuable work that the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association has done for us, to tell those remedies which are decently and honestly made and marketed from those that are not; it is impossible to do so without frequently consulting this book. "Containing descriptions of all proprietary articles which the Council has found to comply with its rules, it is most desirable that physicians should possess the book"—and use it. It may be had, paper bound for 25 cents, and cloth bound for 50 cents, by addressing the American Medical Association, 535 Dearborn avenue, Chicago. Send for a copy today.

### DISASTER BY WIND AND FLOOD.

The disaster which came upon the citizens of Omaha and of many cities and towns in Indiana and Ohio, was truly a terrible one and not soon to be forgotten even though the earlier accounts seem to have been greatly exaggerated. A large number of our professional colleagues have suffered and to them we extend our heartiest sympathy; our members in San Francisco can certainly feel for them a sympathy unknown to those of us who have never been so harshly treated by maddened and destructive nature. President Wilson showed the country a wonderful example of his ability in the prompt orders which he issued in regard to life saving and sanitation; to him we extend our humble appreciation. Our own dear Senator Works gave us cause for congratulation in that he did not wire the flood sufferers that all the eddyites in the country were giving them absent treatment.

### MECHANIC OR MEDIC?

No little food for thought is furnished in a letter recently received from one of our members who has practiced his profession for a number of years in one of the most attractive parts of the state. And, too, it is a rather sad, concrete example of the pathetic side of a physician's life.

"Whenever I have occasion to advise a young man about studying medicine, my counsel is this: If you deeply love the idea, have a first class mind, a good, thorough intellectual training and at least a university degree, and have the means and disposition to devote ten years to study and hospital experience, go ahead; you may make it worth while. But some turn on me with the assertion (which is true) that many men and women are in practice making good livings who have not had one-fifth as much preparation; and if I say to them you would better be a mechanic, they accuse me of trying to keep down competition for selfish reasons. Here is an argument in point: During the recent heavy rains, the writer was called to see a sick child about two miles distant. On the way my machine stopped in the midst of water about knee deep. A person nearby telephoned to a garage about a mile away to come and pull me out. While waiting, a telephone lineman came along and did that service for me and after drawing the water out of my carburetor I went on to see the patient. Finding the family poor, I charged one dollar for my time and services. Meanwhile the garage man came in his old machine to the scene of my discomfiture and went back home, probably taking about twenty minutes; his bill, which I paid, was \$2.50. He had no anxiety for the life of a child; he had no burden of responsibility; he had not even learned a mechanic's trade, and yet he did less and got \$1.50 more than I did!"